

State of California
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS &
RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

FOR THE

EDITORIAL AMENDMENT FOR CHAPTER 1-INTRODUCTION
TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION

February 5, 2008



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
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Introduction

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) released the Public Review Draft of the Editorial Amendment for Chapter 1-Introduction of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region* (Basin Plan) on January 7, 2008, and opened the written public comment period. All written comments received by February 4, 2008, are summarized in this document and responded to by Regional Water Board staff. Written comments are not duplicated here verbatim.

Comments and Responses

(1) Comment(s)

Regarding Section 1.2.1, Related Water Planning, 5th paragraph. Your examples of other plans here (e.g., California Fish & Wildlife Plan of 1966) should be updated, as most of these old plans listed are no longer guiding documents by the state agencies and should be deleted from this list. Here are some examples of current state and regional plans related to water resources that would be more relevant to include: California Agency Watershed Management Strategic Plan (2003); Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (2004) – CDFG; California's Wildlife Action Plan (2006) – CDFG; North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2007) - Prop. 50 group.

Commenter

Sari Sommarstrom, Sari Sommarstrom & Associates

Response

The specific mention by name of other plans that deal with water resources in the Region is now deleted from the proposed amendment language. Regional Water Board staff have determined that it is not necessary to include a list of other plans in the Basin Plan in order to prevent this section from becoming outdated as other planning documents are revised or grow outdate, or as new plans are developed.

(2) Comment(s)

Regarding Section 1.5, Setting of North Coast Region. Add acreages/sq. mi. for each county and not just percentages in the table. Add current populations of each county. This table should also include population densities as context, especially for the 6 counties that are all or mostly within the Basin.

Commenter

Sari Sommarstrom, Sari Sommarstrom & Associates

Response

The total acres and square miles of land that falls within the boundaries of the North Coast Region for each county is now added to the proposed amendment language. Regional Water Board staff have determined that it is not necessary to include population densities in order to prevent this section from becoming outdated as population densities change.

(3) Comment(s)

Regarding Section 1.5.1.3, Scott River description. This sentence is in error: "Increases in groundwater pumping for irrigation have prompted adjudication of groundwater in Scott Valley." Please replace this sentence with: "All water rights in the Scott River stream system are under one of three adjudications. The 1980 Adjudication proclaimed a delineated area of Scott Valley to have groundwater interconnected with the surface water of the Scott River." If you want to add more context, state, "The California Water Code had to be amended for the Scott River Basin in order for this water rights authority to occur, as state water law does not generally acknowledge such interconnection."

Commenter

Sari Sommarstrom, Sari Sommarstrom & Associates

Response

The sentence that reads "Increases in groundwater pumping for irrigation have prompted adjudication of groundwater in Scott Valley" is now replaced in the proposed amendment language by "All surface water rights in the Scott River Hydrologic Area above the U.S. Geological Survey gage station on the mainstem Scott River, and groundwater within a delineated interconnected groundwater area, are adjudicated."

(4) Comment(s)

To be parallel to the Shasta Valley discussion about water users, you could add: "Water use is primarily through individual surface and groundwater diversions, with one irrigation district and one private ditch company serving a small area on the east side."

Commenter

Sari Sommarstrom, Sari Sommarstrom & Associates

Response

The suggested sentence is now added to the proposed amendment language.